

My life . . .

It's pretty interesting. My mom works at a local craft store downtown while my dad is an electrician for a local business. I have a younger brother who's not that bad (as far as brothers are concerned) and a pretty awesome dog named Socket that's full of energy and always wants to play when I get home from school. What's really cool about my family is that every summer we take a family vacation to the beach and enter these sand sculpture competitions. One year we won second place after building a four foot sand castle with a moat, a working drawbridge, and winged dragons!

I really hate . . .

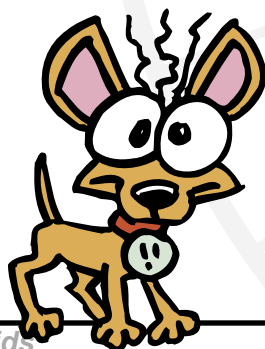
Sitting still! Since I have a lot of energy (just like my dog Socket), I keep myself busy practicing my saxophone for the school jazz band and building structures out of scraps mom and dad bring home from work. Do you know that you can make some really interesting structures out of cardboard, extra cables and wire, thread, beads and buttons? One night my brother and I constructed what we called "The Leaning Tower of Popsicle Sticks." It fell down a few days later when I ran into it while chasing after Socket.

I'm really interested in . . .

Electricity and figuring out how things work and why, so I guess that's why I want to be an engineer. Mom and dad said that when I was little I was fascinated by remote-controlled toys and that I loved playing with my building blocks. On my tenth birthday, they bought me this electronics set that lets you build mechanical robots that move on their own. It was really neat, but what made it really awesome was that dad and I figured out how to rewire the robots so that they were voice-activated. I've been fascinated with electronics ever since!

T.Top taught me the coolest thing . . .

One day, my lab partner T.Top was telling me about this computer program that he was working on for his friends who were competing in a cryptology competition. Since I had never heard of cryptology before, I asked him what it was and how it works. Once he finished telling me everything he knew, I was intrigued and asked if I could join the team for the competition. T.Top thought that was a great idea. Although we didn't win, we became really good friends and hang out all the time making and breaking codes together.



“Never stop wondering.”